

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**EDWARD E. McNALLY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

March 3, 2006

***EFFINGHAM MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY CHARGE***

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 3, 2006, **JAMES W. BOWLIN, JR.**, age 28, of Effingham, Illinois, pled guilty in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, to an Indictment charging him with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1). The violation took place continuously from approximately early 2002 through September 2005, in Effingham County, Illinois.

The offense carries with it a penalty of not less than 10 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a \$4 million fine, or both, and at least 5 years' mandatory supervised release. A sentencing date has not been announced at this time, but will be in approximately three months at the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, following the preparation of a pre-sentence investigation report.

The prosecution of **JAMES W. BOWLIN, JR.** is the result of an ongoing investigation into methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution activities in the area in and around Effingham County, Illinois, being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, and the Effingham City Police Department, in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney Ed Deters. The ongoing investigation is conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kit Morrissey.